

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02 OMB-01 /081 W
-----091130Z 084600 /21

R 090956Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 019
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1214

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SHUM CSCE CZ NL
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS FONMIN'S VISIT TO PRAGUE

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 0973, (B) PRAGUE 585, (C) USNATO 1229
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1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, BIEGMAN, CHIEF OF NATO
POLITICAL AFFAIRS SECTION, MFA, AMPLIFIED DUTCH AMBASSADOR'S
REPORT IN PRAGUE AND BUWALDAS'S REPORT TO NAC ON VAN DER STOEL'S
VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. VAN DER STOEL DESCRIBED VISIT TO
POLCOUNS AS A "BIG ROW".

2. ACCORDING TO BIEGMAN, FONMIN WAS NOT RPT NOT ANXIOUS TO GO TO PRAGUE AT ALL AND ONLY AGREED TO TRIP AFTER BEING ASSURED THAT CZECHS WERE PREPARED TO HEAR HIM OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (REFTEL A). VAN DER STOEL DID NOT, HOWEVER, ATTEMPT PUT CZECHS IN DOCK. EXCEPT FOR BRIEF REFERENCES (INITIATED BY CHNOUPEK HIMSELF) TO SUBJECT IN MEETINGS OF FULL DELEGATIONS, TOPIC OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS RESTRICTED TO PRIVATE ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION BETWEEN FONMINS. DURING THIS DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, VAN DER STOEL MADE IT CLEAR THAT CZECH IMPLEMENTATION OF SEVENTH PRINCIPLE IN HELSINKI FINAL ACT LET A GREAT DEAL TO BE DESIRED AND CAST A SHADOW OVER UPCOMING BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

3. DURING MEETING OF BOTH DELEGATIONS LATER, CHNOUPEK COMMENTED THAT IT WAS GOOD THAT DUTCH HAD RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES PRIVATELY. IF THEY HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP IN OFFICIAL SESSION IT WOULD HAVE SIGNIFIED A RETURN TO AN EARLIER AGE (COLD WAR). NEITHER CHNOUPEK NOR VAN DER STOEL REFERRED TO CHARTER '77 DIRECTLY IN OFFICIAL SESSIONS. BIEGMAN SAID THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE CHNOUPEK NEVER REFERRED TO CHARTER '77 AS AN "IMPERIALIST PLOT" (PARA 3 OF REFTEL B.) VAN DER STOEL, HOWEVER, HAD TOLD HIM THAT DUTCH AND OTHERS IN THE WEST WERE CONCERNED WITH INCREASING SIGNS THAT EAST WAS ATTEMPTING TO TARNISH LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THAT BRUSH. VAN DER STOEL WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD SAT IN NATO COUNCILS FOR YEARS AND THAT NATO HAD NO DESIGNS ON OTHERS' TERRITORY.

4. ALTHOUGH A LITTLE UNEVEN, VISIT WENT REASONABLY WELL AND PERSONAL RELATIONS THROUGHOUT WERE GOOD, VAN DER STOEL'S MEETING WITH PATOCKA WAS CLEARLY A JOLT TO CZECHS. CHNOUPEK MAINTAINED CONFIDENTIAL

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A CORRECT ATTITUDE AFTERWARD BUT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL WAS VISIBLY UPSET. LATTER MADE SPECIAL TRIP OF SOME 40-50 KILOMETERS OUTSIDE PRAGUE TO DEMONSTRATE WITH VAN DER STOEL DURING OFFICIAL DINNER. HE WAS MOLLIFIED SOMEWHAT AFTER VAN DER STOEL EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO TELL PATOCKA THAT DUTCH WILL NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. DUTCH ARE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT. ALTHOUGH A LARGER NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS THAN IS USUAL ACCOMPANIED VAN DER STOEL, BIEGMAN SAID FONMIN WAS NOT SEEKING PUBLICITY FOR HIMSELF NOR DID HE WANT TO EMBARRASS CZECH GOVERNMENT. BUT, WHEN PATOCKA TURNED UP AT HIS HOTEL THERE WAS LITTLE TO DO BUT SEE HIM. TO REFUSE THE MEETING WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN A POLITICAL ACT. (BIEGMAN SAID VAN DER STOEL DID NOT DUCK SECOND MEETING WITH CHARTER '77 SIGNATORIES: DUTCH PRESS WAS OPERATING ON BASIS OF AN INACCURATE SCHEDULE.)

6. NOTING THAT RUDE PRAVO WAITED UNTIL THE WEEKEND TO LAUNCH ITS ATTACK ON THE VAN DER STOEL VISIT, BIEGMAN WONDERED WHY

IT HAD TAKE THE CZECHS THAT LONG TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO. HE SPECULATED THAT THE MATTER MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT A WARSAW PACT CSCE EXPERTS MEETING IN SOFIA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE VISIT. HE COMMENTED THAT DURING THE VISIT THE CZICHs WERE VERY RETICENT AND UNSURE OF THEMSELVES ABOUT CSCE.

7. VAN DER STOEL HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY (ALTHOUGH NOT UNIFORMLY SO) OVER VISIT. DURING CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS THE NORMALLY LACONIC FONMIN CLEARLY RELISHED THE CHANCE TO DESCRIBE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THE VISIT. WHILE WE DO NOT ATTRIBUTE HIS ACTIVITIES IN PRAGUE TO ANYTHING OTHER THAN A FIRM AND LONG STANDING COMMITMENT TO SPEAK OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE TRIP WILL DO HIM NO HARM AT HOME WITH ELECTIONS COMING UP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977THEHA01214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770080-1190
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 THE HAGUE 973, 77 PRAGUE 585
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3156542
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NETHERLANDS FONMIN'S VISIT TO PRAGUE
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CZ, NL, US, CSCE, (VAN DER STOEL, MAX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8dbfd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009